

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BEXAR
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**

A BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009.

The San Antonio City Council convened in a Budget Work Session at 2:00 pm Tuesday, **August 18, 2009**, Municipal Plaza Building with the following Councilmembers present: Cisneros, Taylor, Ramos, Cortez, Medina, Lopez, Williams, Chan, Clamp, and Mayor Castro. **ABSENT:** Rodriguez.

1. STAFF PRESENTATION ON THE FY 2010 PROPOSED BUDGET, FOCUSING ON, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

A. POLICE PROTECTION

Ms. Sculley provided an overview of the Budget Calendar and spoke of the outreach efforts that had been utilized to inform the community of scheduled Work Sessions and Budget Hearings.

Chief William McManus stated that the Mission Statement of the Police Department needed to be amended to focus on Customer Service and that a method for achieving this goal was to increase the number of Patrol Officers on the street. He stated that the City of San Antonio had a ratio of 1.73 Patrol Officers per 1,000 in population and that with the inclusion of the Airport, Park, and School Police Officers, the City had 2.13 Officers per 1,000 in population. Ms. Sculley explained that some cities combine Airport, Park, and School Police Officers into one Department and both statistics were provided in order to reflect a more accurate comparison.

Chief McManus highlighted the various initiatives implemented by the Department to deter crime and increase response times. Such initiatives include the Tactical Response Unit (TRU) that targets violent crime and gang activity by saturating high-crime areas with mobile and visible Officers. The Violent Crime Apprehension Team (VCAT), composed of Officers from the TRU is mobilized as needed to respond to violent crimes. He spoke of the Strategic Management Accelerated Response Times (SMART) Initiative that refers calls to appropriate departments, agencies or organizations for efficiency and noted the success of the Downtown Surveillance Cameras Pilot Project.

Chief McManus stated that in February, 2007, the Walking Arrest Warrant Policy had been implemented in felony Family Violence Cases and misdemeanor Family Violence that produced injury. He spoke of the Robbery Initiative Consortium (BRIC) and the IH-35 Violent Crime Regional Network programs being utilized to deter crime along the I-35 Corridor. He explained that BRIC was a collaborative effort between law enforcement agencies and area financial institutions along IH-35 between San Antonio and Austin. He noted that the Violent Crimes Regional Network was implemented in March, 2009 to develop a network of information and

intelligence sharing and promote interagency investigation of violent crimes along the IH-35 corridor between San Antonio and Austin.

Chief McManus spoke of the Volunteers in Policing Program (VIP), and noted that the program provided volunteers at the six substations on Friday and Saturday nights to assist victims of family violence. He reported that it had been expanded in 1997 with volunteers recruited from the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Group. He noted that another program that allowed for citizen involvement was the Police Explorer Program. The program is sponsored by Boy Scouts of America and allows for 135 participants to gain law enforcement experience by riding along with Police Officers and supporting community events.

Chief McManus spoke of the study conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), explaining that high risk policies and training, as well as the citizen complaint process were reviewed. Ms. Sculley reported that most of the recommendations of the PERF had already been implemented. Chief McManus stated that a recommendation outlined within the study was to improve customer service and a survey was developed and administered with each call received. Overall, respondents have indicated that Police Officers are courteous, professional and good problem-solvers. He stated that the Department had recently implemented a comprehensive program aimed at preventing Police Officer accidents and promoting safe driving habits. In order to achieve this goal, more training is being provided; patrol vehicles are being equipped with GPS devices; and there is more supervision and review of individual vehicle operation.

In regard to Performance Measures, Chief McManus stated that the Department had an Emergency response time goal of five minutes. In comparison to other similar sized cities, the City of San Antonio has the second best response rate. He reported that violent crime was up and property crime was down. He noted that dispatchers took action on approximately two million calls per year but the number was expected to decrease for FY 2009 as a result of having fewer traffic accidents. He stated that as a result of increased communication personnel with a focus on call processing and the SMART Initiative, there had been a decrease in dropped calls since FY 2005. He spoke of efficiency in the area of Court Administration noting that the Department had taken steps to limit the circumstances in which Police Officers are subpoenaed to appear. He reported that beginning October 1, 2009, Municipal Court would facilitate the scheduling of required Police Officer court appearances to coincide with the Officer's duty schedule.

Chief McManus stated that the overall Budget growth from FY 2006 to FY 2009 was due to an increase in the number of Patrol Officers and changes to the collective bargaining agreement. He noted that the majority of the proposed FY 2010 Budget was for Personnel Services and that no reductions in Uniform positions were anticipated. He reported that fifty new Police Officers would be hired as a result of Federal Stimulus funds received and that grant funds would be used to cover the associated expenses for the next three years.

Chief McManus noted that the FY 2010 Proposed Budget allocated \$1 million for the Sobering and Detox Center and that the intent of the facility was to provide priority medical treatment for individuals harmed either before or during an arrest. He stated that this would allow Police Officers to forego waiting in hospital emergency rooms saving approximately three hours of wait

time. He reported that the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)/Records Management System (RMS) Project would allow Police Officers to enter Police Reports on-line and provide improved UCR reporting and other efficiencies. He added that CAD would go live in Spring, 2010 and RMS would go live Spring, 2011. Lastly, he reported that the Police Department was managing its resources appropriately and would continue to look for better methods to fight crime and improve service to the public.

Councilmember Cortez requested the number of cadets trained in comparison to the number patrolling the streets since FY 2006 and asked of 50 Police Officers that would be trained via Stimulus Funds. Ms. Sculley stated that at least 35 of the 50 cadets would attend the Police Academy in September and would be patrolling upon completion. She noted that 100 Police Officers were added last fiscal year and that a total of four Cadet Classes were scheduled for FY 2010. Chief McManus stated that of the 283 Officers trained since FY 2006; all but 50 are on the street today. Councilmember Cortez asked if Collective Bargaining changes were reflected in the FY 2010 Budget and if there was any increase for Cellular on Patrol. Ms. Sculley stated that no increases were being proposed. Lastly, Councilmember Cortez asked of methods used to decrease response times. Chief McManus stated that the SMART Program would be utilized, along with increasing the number of Police Officers.

Councilmember Ramos asked how many officers per 1,000 in population were on the streets patrolling. Chief McManus stated that the ratio was 1.73 per 1,000 and that the number did not reflect Airport, Park, or School Police Officers. Councilmember Cisneros stated that she supported the Chief's recommendation to extend the surveillance camera pilot project and spoke of the National Night Out event scheduled for October 6, 2009. In response to Councilmember Cisneros, Chief McManus provided information relating to the process of walking warrants. Councilmember Cisneros commended the Departments for the work of the TRU and noted the benefits of the Explorer Program. Ms. Sculley stated that the Fire and Police Departments were collaborating to develop a "Public Safety High School."

Councilmember Medina thanked Chief McManus for amending the policy regarding walking warrants and the Department's proactive approach to curb family violence. He also expressed support for the Explorer Program and the Public Safety High School. Councilmember Medina asked of methodology used for the placement of surveillance cameras and the amount of time TRU targeted an area. Chief McManus stated that cameras were placed strategically throughout the City and that TRU stayed in the area as long as necessary. The average length of time was 30 days. Councilmember Medina asked of frequent calls made to the same address for police assistance. The Chief stated that chronic issues were handled by State Officers and as needed, by SAFPE Officers.

Councilmember Williams requested clarification on the completion date of the installation of the new CAD System. Erik Walsh stated that the dispatch portion would be implemented in Spring, 2010 while other components would go-live as scheduled. Councilmember Williams asked for an explanation on how Public Safety was not impacted as a result of Patrol Officers removed from street patrol to work on a task force. Chief McManus stated that Officers were taken from various units throughout the department in order not to impact the delivery of services. Councilmember Williams asked for a status report on the creation of an additional shift. Mr.

Walsh stated that it was being discussed and negotiated with the San Antonio Police Officers Union.

Councilmember Taylor expressed concern with response times in non-emergency situations. She asked what methods would be undertaken to decrease the violent crime rate. Chief McManus explained that the 2008 increase in violent crime rate was due to the misclassification of various offenses based on UCR Protocols, as well as the delay in entering reports into the system. Councilmember Taylor requested clarification on the FY 2010 DWI arrest rate. Chief McManus stated that fewer arrests were anticipated for FY 2010. Lastly, Councilmember Taylor spoke on the proposed reductions for FY 2011. She asked of the charge of the Quality Assurance Unit and reason for the proposed cuts. Chief McManus stated that the positions were utilized to coordinate officer accreditation. Ms. Sculley added that said issue would be revisited at a later time.

Councilmember Clamp asked for additional detail regarding the goal of a five minute response time. Chief McManus stated that five minutes had been the goal since 1994; however, growth has been a barrier in achieving this goal. Councilmember Clamp asked of the proposed decrease in overtime. Chief McManus stated that the projection was due to better management of overtime when officers had to appear before the Court. Ms. Sculley commented on the partnership between Municipal Court and the Police Department that would result in the decrease. Councilmember Clamp asked for clarification on the initiative to deploy two officers per car. Chief McManus stated that said initiative would be implemented city-wide, but more efforts were placed at the patrol district, receiving a high concentration of violent crime calls. Councilmember Clamp asked if any of the new 50 Police Officers would be assigned as SAFPE Officers. Chief McManus stated that it was too early to determine that. Councilmember Clamp asked of enhancements to the Surveillance Camera Initiative to increase prosecution rates for taggers. Chief McManus commented that the issue was that the punishment should fit the crime. Lastly, Councilmember Clamp asked if there were any plans to utilize a reverse-911 system under certain circumstances. Mr. Walsh stated that the City currently utilizes the reverse-911 system in emergency situations and that the program was recently extended to allow for calls to be made in non-emergency salutations.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the effectiveness of surveillance cameras in apprehending suspects and the response times to crimes viewed on camera. Chief McManus noted that about 128 arrests had been made since the initiative but not all of the arrests were from crimes viewed on camera. He stated that most crimes viewed on camera were coded as Code 2. Councilmember Lopez asked for an explanation for the decrease in the number of dropped calls made to 9-1-1. Ms. Sculley stated that the decrease was due to hiring additional personnel to answer the calls. Mr. Lopez asked how many officers the City of San Antonio was scheduled to train prior to receiving the Stimulus Funds. Ms. Sculley stated that no new officers were anticipated to be hired in FY 2010 due to funding constraints.

Councilmember Chan asked of the number of arrests increasing while the number of crimes was also increasing. It was noted by Chief McManus that the increase in crime was due to more individuals reporting crimes. Councilmember Chan asked if other measures could be utilized to more accurately measure crime rates. Examples provided included conducting surveys and

encouraging citizens to be more proactive as it relates to crime. Councilmember Taylor asked if funding for Community Policing would increase from the proposed 4%. It was stated that funding would not increase but the number of Police Officers assigned would increase.

Mayor Castro asked of the Community Policing program and what methods would be utilized to expand the program. Chief McManus stated that the program would be expanded as funding allows. Mayor Castro asked for information on the case clearance rate. It was stated that the clearance rate for all types of crimes were in line with the national average. Mayor Castro spoke of graffiti issues and provided suggestions for deterring said crime. Suggestions include allowing citizens to view camera footage and to monitor social media sites.

B. MUNICIPAL COURT SERVICES

Judge John Bull provided an overview of the proposed FY 2010 Budget for Municipal Court. He noted that many of the programmatic changes were recommendations outlined in a study conducted several years ago. Enhancements include hiring a Court Clerk, hiring experienced and efficient Municipal Court Judges, and technology improvements that allow for electronic warrant processing. Judge Bull explained that it had always been a challenge to schedule Police Officer court appearances to coincide with duty schedules and highlighted several efficiencies made in the area of Court administration to resolve the issue.

Fred Garcia, Municipal Court Clerk, noted offenses in which Municipal Court has jurisdiction and reported that 80% of all cases deal with traffic offenses. Mr. Garcia provided information on Court Personnel, as well as the types of Courts convened to hear cases. He noted that the Magistration and Detention Center was a partnership between various local entities and was charged with providing magistration services for all arresting agencies within Bexar County. As part of the City's Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County, each equally share Court operating costs, while the City and the University Health System equally share medical expenses associated with treating detainees.

Mr. Garcia highlighted the overall efficiency of the Court compared to other similar-sized Texas Cities and noted that efficiencies were in the area of court administration and utilization of funds. He stated that funding for FY 2010 was consistent with previous years. He spoke of improvements proposed for FY 2010 that include the re-organization of Juvenile Offender Programs. Recommendations include transferring the Juvenile Offender Program to Municipal Court from the Department of Community Initiatives. The assessment of court fees would be utilized to fund Juvenile Case Managers. Another recommendation was to increase fines associated with parking violations. It was noted that the City of San Antonio currently charges the lowest parking fines out of the six largest cities in Texas and that said rates have not changed since 2006.

Councilmember Clamp requested information on the net revenue gain to the General Fund after expenses. Ms. Sculley noted that Municipal Court expends \$11.5 million and generates \$14 million in revenue annually. Judge Bull stated that the Court had been proactive with the collection of delinquent fines which has resulted in increased revenues. Councilmember Clamp asked if current ordinances were successful in deterring crime. Judge Bull provided several

recommendations that would assist the Court in enforcing current ordinances. Lastly, Councilmember Clamp asked of the Budget increase for FY 2010. It was noted that the increase was due to the Building Assessment Fee.

Councilmember Cisneros asked of the Detox Center. Judge Bull provided a history on the development of the Center and noted the partners involved. He spoke of the short-term services provided at the Center and noted that Haven for Hope would assist in providing long-term solutions. Councilmember Cisneros asked of the impact of the Grant awarded to the Detox Center. Judge Bull and City Manager Sculley noted that the grant allowed for Municipal Court and the Police Department to be more productive and spoke of the efficiency of the magistration of individuals electronically via web-cam. Judge Bull stated that this technology being proposed will allow individuals to pay fines and see a Judge electronically at the 3-1-1 Community Link Centers.

The Council thanked Judge Bull for his budget presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Castro adjourned the budget work session at 4:38 pm.

A P P R O V E D



JULIÁN CASTRO
MAYOR

Attest:



LETICIA M. VACEK
City Clerk